



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DPS AWARDED GRANT TO BENEFIT LOCAL AGENCIES

The Arizona Department of Public Safety applied for and received a special one-time grant that will greatly assist valley metro law enforcement agencies with reducing large truck accidents in their jurisdictions. The total grant is \$318,492 that will be used by seven local police agencies to enhance their truck enforcement programs.

Arizona participates in a national program funded by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to reduce large truck and bus crashes nationwide. Grant money is allocated to the state to inspect trucks and buses, collect data and develop innovative programs for increasing safety awareness. Arizona has received funding since the mid 1980's.

In most cases, the money is used by the state agencies responsible for the truck and bus inspections program. Arizona, however, has a long history of training and certifying city officers from local agencies to help with inspecting trucks and buses on local roads. DPS inspects trucks and buses primarily on state highways and interstates. There are several occasions where the agencies join forces and work combined joint strike force details. The results of these cooperative efforts have had a tremendous impact on road and highway safety.

Phoenix, Mesa, Scottsdale, Chandler, Buckeye, El Mirage and Gilbert Police Departments will utilize the funds from this particular grant to enhance their commercial vehicle inspection programs. The agencies will purchase vehicles, computers and other equipment. The Chandler Police Department, for example, will replace a police motorcycle with the purchase of a commercial vehicle enforcement truck. Chandler Police Officer John Somerville says that he'll be much more effective when using a truck instead of a motorcycle. "Inspecting trucks requires specialized equipment which I can't carry on the bike, so having a different vehicle helps me do my job better. Also, the ability to use the computer in the truck will streamline the whole process."